

Rec'd PCT/TD 10 MAR 2005

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 206.144 (P)	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)
International application No. PCT/US03/34140	International filing date (day/month/year) 23 October 2003 (23.10.2003)	Priority date (day/month/year) 23 October 2002 (23.10.2002)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC IPC(7): C01B 3/32 and US Cl.: 48/127.3, 190, 192		
Applicant SAUDI ARABIAN OIL COMPANY		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

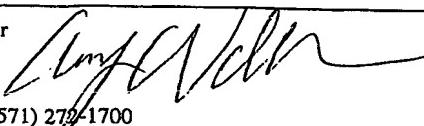
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 3 sheets, including this cover sheet.

This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of \_\_\_ sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

I  Basis of the report  
II  Priority  
III  Non-establishment of report with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability  
IV  Lack of unity of invention  
V  Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement  
VI  Certain documents cited  
VII  Certain defects in the international application  
VIII  Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 07 May 2004 (07.05.2004)	Date of completion of this report 10 December 2004 (10.12.2004)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: IPEA/US Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230	Authorized officer Basia Ridley Telephone No. (571) 272-1700 

Form PCT/IPEA/409 (cover sheet)(July 1998)

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US03/34140

**I. Basis of the report**

## 1. With regard to the elements of the international application:\*

 the international application as originally filed. the description:pages 1-24 as originally filedpages NONE, filed with the demandpages NONE, filed with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_. the claims:pages 25-30, as originally filedpages NONE, as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19pages NONE, filed with the demandpages NONE, filed with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_. the drawings:pages 1-6, as originally filedpages NONE, filed with the demandpages NONE, filed with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_. the sequence listing part of the description:pages NONE, as originally filedpages NONE, filed with the demandpages NONE, filed with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_.

## 2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language \_\_\_\_\_ which is:

 the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)). the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)). the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3).

## 3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

 contained in the international application in printed form. filed together with the international application in computer readable form. furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form. furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form. The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished. The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.4.  The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of: the description, pages NONE the claims, Nos. NONE the drawings, sheets/fig NONE5.  This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).\*\*

\* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17).

\*\* Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.  
PCT/US03/34140**V. Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement****1. STATEMENT**

Novelty (N)	Claims <u>1-16</u>	YES
	Claims <u>NONE</u>	NO
Inventive Step (IS)	Claims <u>1-16</u>	YES
	Claims <u>NONE</u>	NO
Industrial Applicability (IA)	Claims <u>1-16</u>	YES
	Claims <u>NONE</u>	NO

**2. CITATIONS AND EXPLANATIONS**

Claims 1-16 meet the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(2)-(3), because the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest a method and system for superheating of a compressed natural gas stream for transmission through a pipeline, comprising dividing a stream of natural gas discharged from a high pressure gas compressor into a first portion and a second portion, passing the first portion of the gas from the gas compressor to a heat exchanger to heat the gas to a predetermined temperature, passing the first portion of gas exiting the heat exchanger to an aftercooler, passing the second portion of natural gas discharged from the gas compressor to the aftercooler without passing it through the heat exchanger, the second portion of gas and the first portion of gas being mixed at the aftercooler inlet and cooled by the aftercooler and discharged from the aftercooler as a cooled gas stream having temperature no greater than the first temperature, passing the cooled gas stream from the aftercooler to a liquid discharge drum to remove condensate from the cooled gas and discharging from the drum a partially dried gas stream as a second temperature, passing the partially dried gas from the discharge drum to the heat exchanger in heat exchanging relation with the first portion of gas from the gas compressor, and superheating at least a portion of the gas stream to a third temperature to provide a superheated gas stream, the third temperature being controlled by an automated control loop responsive to a differential pressure across the gas compressor, and passing the superheated gas stream into a tie-line and injecting a predetermined amount of an enhanced corrosion inhibitor formulation into the tie-line to mix with the superheated gas stream, where the amount of enhanced corrosion inhibitor injected is proportionated in response to the third temperature.

Claims 1-16 meet criteria of industrial applicability under PCT Article 33(4) because claimed system can be used to provide natural gas comprising corrosion inhibitor from a gas oil separation plant to a gas plant.